GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4238
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
REMOVAL OF POST OF LINGUISTIC COMMISSIONER
CHARAN DAS MAHANT

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the posts of Linguistic Commissioner created in 1856 to give suggestions for the protection of adivasi dialects of various States were abolished ;

(b) the details of the proposed effort for the protection of these dialects; and (

(c) the number of dialects of munda tribe in Chhattisgarh out of which the number of dialects being spoken?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(PROF. RITA VERMA)
(a) As per the information received from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the post of the Special Officer for Linguistics Minorities, formally designated as the Commissioner for Linguistics Minorities in India, came into being on 30th July , 1957 and is still very much in existence. The protection of adivasi dialects is not part of the duties of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities.
(b) As part of the preservation and development of Adivasi dialects, the Central Institute of Indian Languages , (Mysore) a subordinate organization of the Ministry of Human Resource Development,has so far worked on 43 tribal languages, including Mundari , and published 76 books on topics such as grammer, phonetics, lexicon (dictionary), folktales, teaching material etc. Besides, various universities and other educational institutes will have their own programmes.
(c) As per the information provided by the Registrar General, India,as per the Census 1991 , there are 8 languages belonging to the Munda branch of the Austro- Asiatic family, each of which has more than 10,000 speakers at the all India level.